

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the examination of the application. In view of the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Claims 1 – 5, 14, 16, and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,59,048, hereinafter *Tanaka*.

Claim 1 defines an image processing apparatus that includes, among other elements, a plurality of processings for image data. A communication device in the apparatus receives image data and a command from an external device, and also transmits image data to the external device through a network. If the command includes a request for simultaneous processing, a controller makes a first processor perform the first processing, outputs an image data processed with the first processing, and automatically makes said second processor perform the second processing and transmits the image data processed by said second processor through the communication device to the external apparatus.

See, e.g., step S210 in Figure 9, wherein the process determines if simultaneous processing has been requested. However, the claimed invention is not limited to the preferred disclosed embodiments.

As a result of the claimed combination, a second processing is conveniently done, and data can be automatically sent back to the requesting apparatus.

In contrast to the claimed invention, *Tanaka* does not teach or suggest the claimed combination. In particular, if *Tanaka* creates additional data, the created data is stored at a URL. The print requester must make a separate request to see the print image. See column 11, lines 45 – 53. Accordingly, *Tanaka* does not teach

the features of the present invention, which include, among other things, a controller which, if the command includes a request for simultaneous processing, automatically makes said second processor perform the second processing and transmits the image data processed by said second processor through said communication device to the external apparatus. Accordingly, the claimed invention is more convenient to us.

In view of the fact that *Tanaka* does not teach or suggest claim 1, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection thereof. Similar amendments have been made to the other pending dependent claims. Accordingly, all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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